

Dilapidated rail bridges

1929. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway bridges more than 100 years old alongwith number of railway bridges more than 60 years old out of total one lakh two thousand old railway bridges;

(b) the number of total bridges out of them considered necessary by Government for reconstruction alongwith the plan formulated by Government for the same;

(c) whether Railway Safety Commission has raised objection for loading goods more than the capacity of goods trains and also for speedy running of the trains having more capacity expressing possibility of accident due to old bridges; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There are approximately 1,27,000 Railway Bridges on Indian Railway system. Out of this, 51,340 bridges are more than 100 years old & 90,387 bridges are more than 60 years old.

(b) Rehabilitation/repair of bridges is an ongoing process on indian Railways. Railway undertakes repair, rehabilitation/rebuilding of bridges on the basis of their physical condition as ascertained during regular inspections and not on the basis of age. Based on such identification of bridges, allotment of funds is made annually to carry out their repair, rehabilitation/rebuilding duly prioritizing the works as per requirement. In 2001 -02, to clear the backlog of replacement of such identified bridges on Indian Railways, 2370 bridges were sanctioned for repair/rehabilitation/ rebuilding at a cost of Rs. 1530 Crore (Net) under Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF). Apart from SRSF, additional funds are also made available annually in Railway Budget to undertake repair/rehabilitation of Fresh accruals of Bridge works mainly under Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF). Year-wise repair, rehabilitation/rebuilding of bridges since the creation of SRSF is given as below: —

Year	SRSF		DRF	
	No.of Bridges Repaired/ Rehabilitated	Expenditure (in Crore)	No.of Bridges Repaired/ Rehabilitated	Expenditure (in Crore)
2001-02	280	44.10	445	63.96
2002-03	496	151.60	655	47.50
2003-04	530	157.27	1033	71.28
2004-05	375	274.26	1204	116.00
2005-06	239	248.61	1192	161.98
2006-07	55	102.76	418	91.26
(till October '06) (till October '06) (till October '06) (till October '06)				

(c) and (d) The Commission of Railway Safety raises important issues related to safety in train operations through its Annual Reports from time to time and more than 50 such issues have been raised by the Commission in last 10 years. One such issue raised in the Annual Report of 2004-05 was regarding the health monitoring of railway bridges particularly old bridges. The issues raised were replied by the Railway Administration and efforts made by Railways to find suitable diagnostic techniques available world over for monitoring health of various components of old bridges were appreciated by the Commission. The issues raised by the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety (CCRS), the reply thereto of Railway Administration & further comments of CCRS are contained in the Annual Report of Commission of Railway Safety laid on the table of Rajya Sabha on 16.05.2006.

Setting up of units for producing high capacity wagons

1930. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan for setting up of units for producing high capacity wagons for Indian Railways;

(b) if so, whether locations for the units have since been identified;